

Sec/Treas: JUHO LOOVIER  
3 Bonds Rd.,  
PUNCHBOWL 2196  
Sydney N.S.W.

TO: A.V.F. Annual General Meeting 1980  
A.V.F. Executive  
Affiliated State Volleyball Association

1. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the A.V.R.C. held in Devonport in April this year have been circulated to all members. The Executive as elected is:-

Chairman Jeff Kostas (International Referee)  
Secretary/Treasurer JUHO (International Candidate)  
Registrar Tanya Tarnagursky (National Candidate)  
Committee Richard Hayes (International)  
Mike Dell (National).....subsequently resigned  
and replaced by Colin Logan (National)  
Grading Panel Jeff Kostas, Ken Breen (International) and JUHO

2. The Grading Panel and Executive have agreed on certain guidelines for the upgrading of referees, which have been circulated by the N.E.D.. These are aimed at raising the standards of referees in Australia.

It is fairly obvious to all that the standards of our players and teams at both National Open and Youth Championships has improved to a great degree. The players and coaches involved with these teams work hard to get to this level, and it would be unfair on them to have to play under a completely inexperienced and unknown referee in what might be a vital match.

Yet this is the current situation! Often the Chief Referee at any tournament is obliged to appoint the referee accompanying his state teams to a match, never having seen them actually referee or umpire. A knowledge of the rules is not enough to make a good referee, yet the theory test that all new referees must take before officiating is perhaps the only guide the Chief Referee has.

We would prefer to have states send newcomers to junior under-17 and under-15 Championships for their first experiences at National level, to show their competence. After demonstrating sufficient ability, they will be awarded National Candidacy at the National under-20 Championships.

Just as the players have the National Open Championships as their aim within Australia, we would like to foster this approach in referees. The players deserve to have the best referees who are available at the National Opens, and the best referees deserve the right to be invited.

We will be inviting the top referees to the Opens as from next year, as determined by their gradings and activity as referees.

The Australian Volleyball Referees' Commission already appoints a Chief Referee to all National Championships, and pays half his airfare, as well as \$10 each day for expenses. This is hardly much, depending on the travel, accommodation and food costs, as well as dry-cleaning of white clothes, etc. Yet it is a great burden for the Commission.

These costs are currently met from general funds, which includes the payments to referees at National Championships (half of the payments is paid back to the Commission).

Current payments :     \$5 for referee  
                           \$2 for umpire

                           from host association.

If all states participate: 2 sexes x (21 games + 2 finals) x \$7 = \$322.

Any State Association not sending an independent to a National Championship is due for a fine of \$100 (by A.V.F. rules). Several states pay this directly towards the referee, rather than be embarrassed by the situation of a fine, when they have difficulty in finding a referee to travel independently with the team.

In order to be able to invite the best referees to the National Opens, and not place too great a burden on them financially, our Commission would like to suggest that each state, rather than directly subsidise a referee (as is mostly done now), pay some amount to be determined by the Commission, to be then pooled and split by the referees invited.

A fixed amount would see each state paying the same. This is fairer than penalising some states according to distance from venue, or for having too many good referees, or not having any.

We envisage that using a two-court venue, eight referees total would be needed to capably handle the games. In addition, National Candidates showing potential and ability as referees may be invited (at their own cost) to the Championships for possible upgrading, if thought good enough by the Grading Panel.

The AUSTRALIAN VOLLEYBALL REFEREES' COMMISSION asks you to consider your own state teams and the future development of the game in changing policy according to the above suggestions, for the National Open Championships (at least), to take effect as of 1st January, 1981.

3. The second edition of the Australian Volleyball Rules' Book has been published, with much appreciation to Bob Foot for his hard work and efforts. He will be acting as our agent for distribution of them, due to the convenience of being close to the printer. He has made a deal whereby we can store the books there and pick them up as necessary. In addition, we are not required to pay the total cost of printing immediately. We are always operating from in the red with this, as we have to await payments from states before we can recoup the money to pay the printer with. This should be remedied after a few years, but it does make the current situation difficult. Please assist with prompt payment.

4. Referees at National Championships over the past few years have become concerned over several matters:-

(i) Only the coach, assistant coach, and recognised medical officer attached to a team may sit on the team bench with the substitutes during the match. Statisticians, team managers, etc. may sit on another bench behind the team bench.

This has been compounded by individuals stating that they are team manager in one instance, and then claiming to be a 'team doctor' on the next. Surely teams know before they leave for a tournament what each person will be involved with.

The A.V.R.C. asks the A.V.F. to adopt a team nomination form, listing team players, coach, official assistant coach (or trainer),

Such a form would no doubt assist local organisers in producing programs, etc., and if enforced, would lead to a more organised and professional approach by more of our state officials.

This form should be forwarded to the organiser, with a copy submitted to the Chief Referee prior to the start of the tournament, and a copy to the Registrar of the A.V.F..

(11) Most states take a very lackadaisical approach to appointing scorers and linesman for National Tournaments.

While Referees generally oblige by assisting with the scoring duties, it is still A.V.F. policy that the host state is responsible for organising them BEFOREHAND.

Linesman organised often are disinterested, and are recruited just before the game. Commenting on this to organisers, the answer is mostly to put up with it. Yet who is penalised when they make mistakes? The two teams playing.

Could State Associations help their own teams by organising local teams or other state squads to assist?

5. Currently the only income this Commission has is membership fees (\$5 per year for referees of National Candidate standard or higher, \$10 for state Referee Commissions) payments for referees at National Championships (over half of which is paid back to referees), and rules books (which are paying for themselves at present...profit does not come till very late).

Apart from raising fees for members, we would ask for an increase in the payments made at National Championships. The current fees (\$5 for referee, \$2 for umpire) were set several years ago, and have not been increased since. As a comparison, basketball referees are paid \$10 each for even a local game (two referees per game of 45 minutes plus).

Some matches last only three sets, possibly thirty minutes, others last five sets and maybe three hours. Is \$2 a fair payment for an umpire for this time and effort? It is impossible to know before a game how long it will last, and this would make payment according to length of matches impossible to budget.

We would like to suggest an increase to \$10 for referee and \$6 for umpire per match at National Championships. (Special consideration if a new policy is adopted for Opens).

6. Regarding International Referees appointed to International matches... By International regulations, International Referees are entitled to first-class travel (train at least) to the venue, accomodation at a reasonable hotel, and an allowance per day. This also applies to referees accompanying national teams on tour.

While we realise the financial situation within Australian Volleyball currently, we would like to point this out, as one of the aims for A.V.F. in the not too distant future. This can also be used as a lever when talking with likely sponsors.

While we have a large pool of players who can be asked to go on any tour, we have at present only five International Referees (plus two candidates). For a tournament such as Asian Juniors, lower graded

AUSTRALIAN VOLLEYBALL REFEREES' COMMISSION

referees will not be accepted (even though there might be a great benefit of having them tour). Some of our top referees are nowhere near the financial situation of being able to foot the bill for the number of commitments they are facing (Several National tournaments each year, as well as all local fixtures and events). While it is easy to say we must produce more top referees, it is impossible unless they are first brought through by their own states, and they continue to be active. Too many are still players or coaches.

(ii) Considering the report from the referee accompanying the National women to Hong Kong last December, we would ask for clarification of the roles of wives of referees, as well as players and coaches, while on tour. We believe that this should be done prior to the tour, as the referee on that trip often felt embarrassed by the attitude of the managers, and the situations he was left in. We feel that most of this can be clarified by better communication and set guidelines.

7. We were somewhat in shock in Devonport when we learnt only on the morning of our Annual General Meeting that our past Chairman, Mr. Bob Foot had 'stepped down' from all positions until further notice. This put us in a difficult situation at the time, as he had prepared all material for the seminar to be held. We would like to thank the Chairman of A.V.F., Mr. Eric Naysan for letting Mr. Foot conduct the seminar regardless, as it assisted our officiating at the National Opens.

With no real knowledge of the situation, Mr. Foot is in, the A.G.M. agreed:-

- (i) "That the meeting express its complete confidence in the past Chairman of the A.V.R.C."
- (ii) "That the meeting express a vote of thanks to Mr. Foot for all his hard work and dedication to the advancement of refereeing, and the administration of the A.V.R.C. over the past six years."
- (iii) "That this meeting urge the A.V.F. in the strongest terms as possible to take all possible actions to ensure that Mr. Foot is able to return active refereeing and referee functioning as soon as possible."

8. In other ways, the Commission is functioning and operating well. We ask you to consider the above suggestions, which are for the betterment of Volleyball in this country.

Yours,

JUHO LAKWEE

Secretary/Treasurer.

AUSTRALIAN VOLLEYBALL REFEREES' COMMISSION

ADDENDUM TO LETTER....24/7/80 To A.V.F. Members and A.C.N.

At the Annual General Meeting of this Commission this year, it was agreed that it would be more professional, and in the best interests of all, if all referees were accommodated together, at some suitable venue. (ie. NOT with their state teams).

This would facilitate discussions among referees, lead to a better understanding of a common interpretation of refereeing and the rules, and enforce the standing of referees as a completely independent body of officials.

This was not enforced for this year's under-20 Championships in Canberra due to lack of time to notify all concerned.

Since then, all State Referee Commissions, and all referees themselves have been notified in writing of this. Yet we find that nothing seems to be being done in this regard for the under-17 Championships.

The Commission therefore asks the Australian Volleyball Federation to endorse this policy for the future (as of this year's under-15 Championships, or failing that, 1st January, 1980).